

PATENT COOPERATION TREATY

From the:
INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARY EXAMINING AUTHORITY

To:

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COPY SENT TO
BRISBANE OFFICE
PCT 4/5/04

WRITTEN OPINION
(PCT Rule 66)

Date of mailing
(day/month/year)

02 APR 2004

REPLY DUE within **TWO MONTHS**
from the above date of mailing

Applicant's or agent's file reference
015141PC/GC/IDJ

International Application No.
PCT/AU2002/000789

International Filing Date (day/month/year)
17 June 2002

Priority Date (day/month/year)
17 June 2002

International Patent Classification (IPC) or both national classification and IPC

Int. Cl. ⁷ F16G 11/14, 11/12; B60P 7/08; B63B 21/04

Applicant

RADFORD, Wayne Michael

1. This written opinion is the **first** drawn by this International Preliminary Examining Authority.

2. This opinion contains indications relating to the following items:.

- I Basis of the opinion
- II Priority
- III Non-establishment of opinion with regard to novelty, inventive step and industrial applicability
- IV Lack of unity of invention
- V Reasoned statement under Rule 66.2(a)(ii) with regard to novelty, inventive step or industrial applicability; citations and explanations supporting such statement
- VI Certain documents cited
- VII Certain defects in the international application
- VIII Certain observations on the international application

3. The **FINAL DATE** by which the international preliminary examination report must be established according to Rule 69.2 is:
17 October 2004

The applicant is hereby invited to reply to this opinion.

When? See the Reply Due date indicated above. However, the Australian Patent Office will not establish the Report before the earlier of (i) a response being filed, or (ii) one month before the Final Date by which the international preliminary examination report must be established. The Report will take into account any response (including amendments) filed before the Report is established. If no response is filed by 1 month before the Final Date, the international preliminary examination report will be established on the basis of this opinion.

Applicants wishing to have the benefit of a further opinion (if needed) before the report is established should ensure that a response is filed at least 3 months before the Final Date by which the international preliminary examination report must be established.

How? By submitting a written reply, accompanied, where appropriate, by amendments, according to Rule 66.3.
For the form and the language of the amendments, see Rules 66.8 and 66.9.

Also For an additional opportunity to submit amendments, see Rule 66.4.
For the examiner's obligation to consider amendments and/or arguments, see Rule 66.4bis.
For an informal communication with the examiner, see Rule 66.6.

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WRITTEN OPINION

International application No.

PCT/AU2002/000789

V. Reasoned statement under Rule 66.2(a)(ii) with regard to novelty, inventive step or industrial applicability; citations and explanations supporting such statement**1. Statement**

Novelty (N)	Claims 2, 3	YES
	Claims 1	NO
Inventive step (IS)	Claims 2, 3	YES
	Claims 1	NO
Industrial applicability (IA)	Claims 1-3	YES
	Claims	NO

2. Citations and explanationsNOVELTY (N) Claim 1

- US 1421026 A
- FR 2401353 A
- JP 2000192936 A

Each of these citations explicitly discloses all of the features of claim 1. For example

In US 142102 A see

- Hitch item 4 of Fig.2
- Shanks item 5 of Fig.2
- Hooks item 6 of Fig.2
- Closed eyelet item 8 of Fig.2

INVENTIVE STEP (IS) Claim 1

Claim 1 as above

WRITTEN OPINION

International application No.

PCT/AU2002/000789**VI. Certain documents cited****1. Certain published documents (Rule 70.10)**

Application No. Patent No.	Publication date (day/month/year)	Filing date (day/month/year)	Priority date (valid claim) (day/month/year)
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AU 97257/01

20 June 2002

14 December 2001

14 December 2000

This document discloses all of the features of claims 1-3.

See the whole document.

Please note that this document is the equivalent AU application.

2. Non-written disclosures (Rule 70.9)

Kind of non-written disclosure	Date of non-written disclosure (day/month/year)	Date of written disclosure referring to non-written disclosure (day/month/year)
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